

DATE: 5th October, 2016

TO: Council Chair Martin, Vice-Chair Anderson and Honolulu City Council Members

FROM: Suzanne Frazer, Co-Founder, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

RE: **TESTIMONY FOR BILL 59 (COMMENTS ONLY)**

Relating to use of bags provided to customers.

Council meeting on Wednesday 5th October, 2016 at 10AM.

Aloha Chair Martin, Vice-Chair Anderson and Council Members,

I'm testifying on behalf of B.E.A.C.H. with comments on Bill 59. Compostable plastic bags need to be banned so we support that component of the bill, however the remaining loopholes need closing - especially in regards to thick plastic bags and plastic checkout bags for take-out food/drinks.

It's been 65 weeks since the plastic bag ordinance has been in effect and now there are so many thick plastic, so called "reusable bags" out there that if each lot of bags collected at the store when people do weekly grocery shopping were reused for 2 years, there would be enough bags to last them the next 130 years! And if plastic bags were banned starting 1st January, 2017, after 78 weeks of thick plastic bags being handed out, there would be enough bags to last for 156 years! That's enough bags for the rest of the lifetime of the adults today, their children's lifetime and part of their grandchildren's lifetime. Therefore there is no need to delay any further in closing the thick plastic bag loophole.

Please amend this bill to ban all plastic checkout bags no matter how thick and ban all plastic bags for take-out.

Thank you,


Suzanne Frazer



*Celebrating a decade of volunteer
service and environmental action*

MISC. COM. 2492

COUNCIL